



2020

YEARBOOK

KIWANIS OF CAREFREE

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KIWANIS HISTORY

Kiwanis of Carefree received its charter from Kiwanis International in 1973 and ended its first year with 55 members and some funds raised. In this and other early years, most of the money was donated to the Kiwanis International. Today Kiwanis of Carefree has over 200 members. As membership grew, community involvement grew and funds shifted to local community services. We still provide some support to our International and Southwest District initiatives. We follow the Kiwanis motto: serving the children of the world, one child and one community at a time.

In the 1980s the Kiwanis Club of Carefree decided to try selling used household goods as a special fund raising event. Probably a simple multi-household yard sale. No one then dreamed what it might evolve into more than thirty years later. The first sales were held in a parking lot at Pima and Cave Creek road. Later the sales were held in the old "Studios of Dick Van Dyke." Annual sales grew from a \$1,000 to over \$4,000 in those first few years – a very healthy growth rate that enabled the Club, through its Benefit Foundation, to substantially increase the funds it invested in the community and its children.

Early years, the donated merchandise was stored in members' garages, but this became a problem with continuing sales growth. So, the American Legion in Cave Creek allowed the Club to build a storage shed behind its building around 1990. At the time, some couldn't imagine ever filling so much space, but it was outgrown.

In 1999, the Club struck a deal with the Town of Carefree that allowed Kiwanis to build a 3,000-sq. ft., \$100,000 building on city property. Kiwanis was given a 20-year lease on the land. At the end of 20 years Kiwanis was obligated to return the entire building to the Town of Carefree. The new Flea Market opened in 1999 and had a lease restriction that only allowed the club to have 6 sales per year. With so much space, it was possible to use gondolas to display small goods and space to work to test, clean and repair donations. Within two years' women joined men as volunteers and pricing, preparing and merchandising improved. The *Arizona Republic* even published that this new flea market was "the Nieman Marcus of flea markets." Sales continued to improve.

Kiwanis Members worked on Wednesdays and Saturdays receiving and processing donated merchandise until the day of the sale. On the day before a sale members would show up at 2 pm on Friday and unload the building where furniture was stacked over 12 feet high into the parking lot. They were ready for Saturday sales outdoors. In later years, a loft was purchased along with a large lift so that more furniture could be stored between sales.

As time passed, volunteers made increasing use of the internet to help price and to sell worthwhile items on eBay. Book experts were used to review books for significant value before the public sale. Continuing evolution enabled continuing growth.

KIWANIS HISTORY

By 2012 it was clear that the City of Carefree wanted the building in 2019 when the lease was to expire. Alternatives were needed to keep the income flow into the Club's Benefit Foundation. Sales were still growing, but there was just not enough space for storage needs. The city would not allow extra days for sales, so the club rented the old fire station building just north of the city property where the old flea market was held. The adjacent location facilitated exposure and trial by those loyal customers of the flea market. The new store was called the Kiwanis Marketplace.

This experiment renting retail space was conducted to reassure club members that we could continue to increase the sales even more by successfully operating a retail store was open 4 days a week from 9 am to 1 pm. Business quickly built faster than the Club could sell in the small 2,000 sq. ft. rented space.

This success gave the club confidence to buy land to build a new store. The land was purchased. A fund-raising effort was started to build a new store for the Marketplace. The plan was to collect the needed capital and then start a new construction to get out of the old location before 2019.

The Building Fund Committee raised over \$1,200,000 in cash and pledges over three years from the membership. The extra funds generated from operations at the new Marketplace test store would be saved for the project.

Things changed in the spring of 2014 when the current building (Old Epicurean Palate Store) in Cave Creek became available for the same amount as was planned to build the new building. This store was bigger and had more parking compared to the land that was purchased a year prior. And, the operation could be moved into immediately after some fast renovations.

The store was a perfect fit for the Kiwanis Marketplace store. It was purchased in July and then all the volunteers worked to move to the new location in just four days. The store opened in August of 2014. Sales have been better than expected. There are over 150 volunteers, most of them are new. Eighty percent of the volunteers are not Kiwanis Members. They are community volunteers who want to contribute to the many projects that Kiwanis supports in the community that focus mainly on children's programs.

Volunteer hours have increased by four times and sales have increased by three times in comparison to the old locations. The building is now paid for including the new parking lot. The volunteers love the working conditions at the new store. A General Manager was hired to manage the growing new operation. In 2016 an additional Assistant Manager was hired as sales were still growing at the new store.

Since Opening the Marketplace in August 2015, through June 2020, the Kiwanis Foundation has supported community organizations and their programs more than \$3 million !

COMMITMENT TO KIDS

Our Mission Statement

The Kiwanis Club of Carefree is a fellowship of patriotic, the quality civil-minded men and women dedicated to improving of life of children in our communities.

From installing the splash pad in the town center of Carefree to supporting and funding projects for local schools and youth organizations, our mission statements is part of every decision we make.

At the elementary school level, we have a **Terrific Kids** program where once a month in every class the teacher selects a “Terrific Kid” for character and accomplishment, to believe and to achieve. Kiwanis presents a certificate and small bag of presents, photographs of the student for display in the school gallery.

We created an **Adopt-a-Family** program which enabled over 200 families in our community to have a great Christmas this year by our gifts and gift cards and stockings stuffed with supplies. We received requests from persons referred to us by the YMCA and CCUSD. Many Kiwanians shopped for kids, tweens, and adults of all ages. The project culminated with a wrapping day serenaded by Upscale Singers! We also donated gift cards to Foothills Caring Corps and The Foothills Food Bank, amongst others. What a way to bring the true ‘Spirit of Christmas’ home.

Our **Service Leadership Programs** start with elementary students in **K-Club**. In middle school, students join **Builders Club**, and in high school students are part of **Key Club**. These clubs focus on service projects that give back to the community and help our students develop important leadership skills. **Aktion Club** is the only community service organization designed specifically for young adults (18+ years) with mental and physical challenges.

COMMITMENT TO KIDS

The **Schools / Education Committee** identifies and prioritizes projects that will have the greatest impact on students. Some notable contributions from the past several years include: STEAM, Chromebooks, and student Health and Wellness programs at several Cave Creek Schools and in the surrounding area.

The **Funds Request Committee** is guided by the foundation’s focus on kids and/or the merit of the financial request and its effect on the community. Some examples of ways these requests impact kids in our community include: swimming lessons, youth camps, equine therapy, and youth music and arts programs.

By far our largest commitment has been in post-secondary scholarships awarded by our **Scholarship Committee & Merit Awards Committee** — we have awarded over one million dollars to deserving students in the local area in the last five years.

2017
8 merit awards
4 four-year scholarships

2018
18 merit awards
12 four-year scholarships
1 two-year scholarship

2019
17 merit awards
16 four-year scholarships
3 four-year donor scholarships
1 two-year scholarship

2020
12 merit scholarships
12 four-year scholarships
1 four-year donor scholarship

2021
9 merit awards
12 four-year scholarships
1 four-year donor scholarship
1 two-year scholarship



**Frank
Abbruscato**

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**Mary (Elaine)
Adrian**

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**Allie
Avishai**

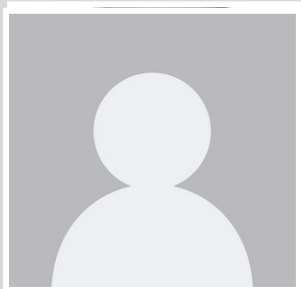
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**Paul
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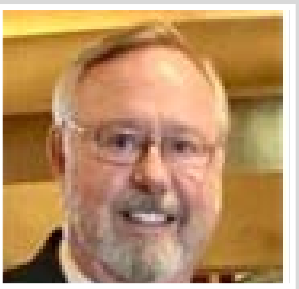
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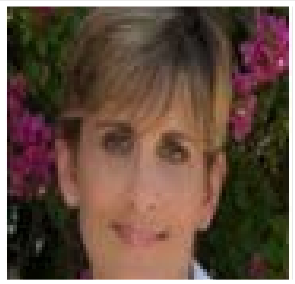


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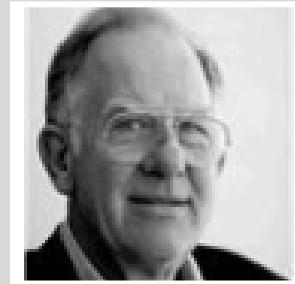
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**David
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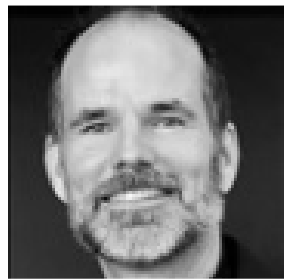
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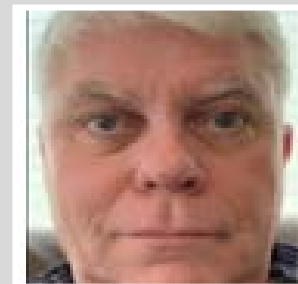
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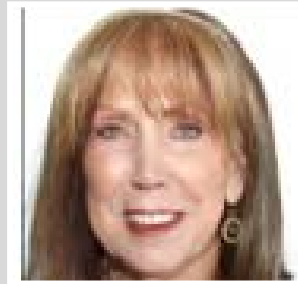
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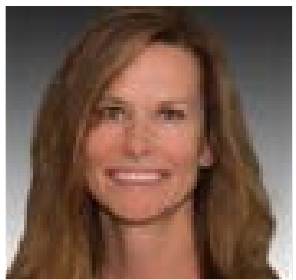


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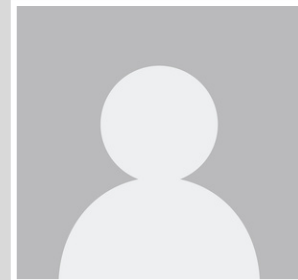
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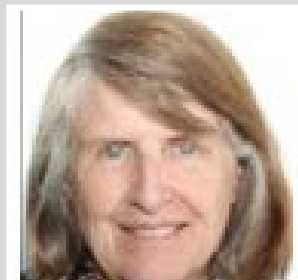
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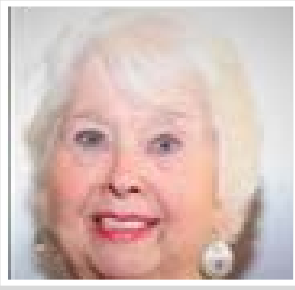


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**Kevin (Casey)
Jack**

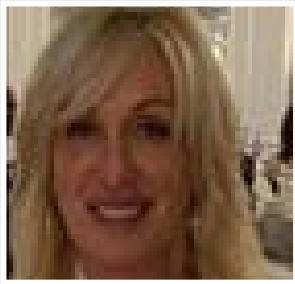


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Johnson**



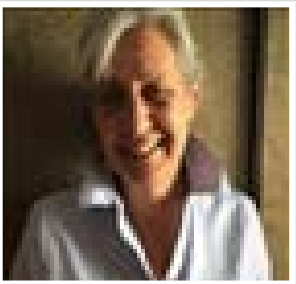
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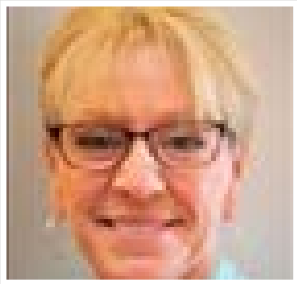


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**Jana
Miller**

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Muhl**



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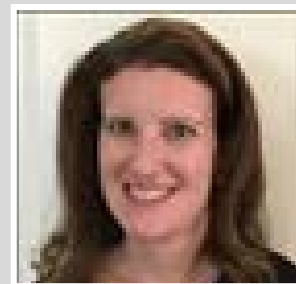
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**Selene
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Birthday: February 4

**James
Noble**



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**Lynn
Oates**



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**Blake
Olson**



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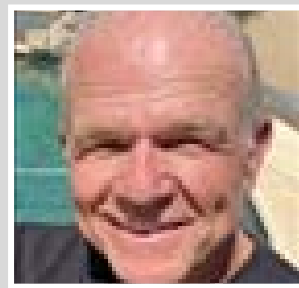
**Gary
Olson**

Date Joined: 12/29/2020
Preferred Phone: 971-724-4499
Birthday: October 24



**Eugene
Orrico**

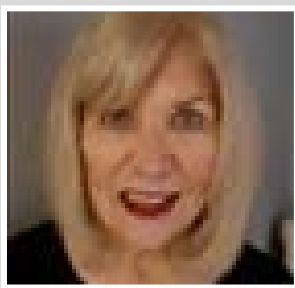
Date Joined: 5/27/2014
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Birthday: November 11



**Michael
Patterson**

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**Jacquelyn (Jacqui)
Perry-Brown**



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**Aaron
Pettinato**



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Birthday: October 7

**Remington (Remi)
Pettus**

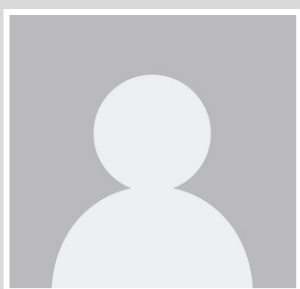


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**Ralph
Pipp**

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**Bernie
Pistillo, Jr.**

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**Bob
Preston**



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**Craig
Raby**



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**Leo
Reardon**



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**Maria Elena
Rizzo**

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**Lisa
Savage-Black**



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**Dan
Schalinske**

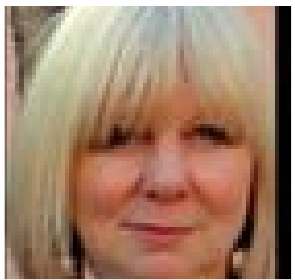


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**Paul
Schoonover**



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**Heidi
Schuler**

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**William (Bill)
Schulze**

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**Paula
Scully**

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**James
Shaw**



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**Hugh
Shoults**



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**Gail
Shriner**



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**John
Skarda**

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Birthday: April 27



**Mike
Sloane**

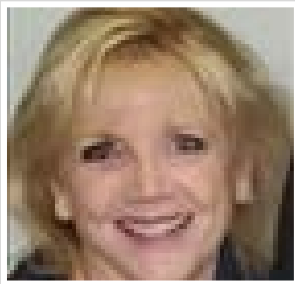
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Birthday: November 1



**Ralph
Spurgin**

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**Alexis
Sterling-Popovich**



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**Lisa
Strohman**



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**Bill
Sulkoske**



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**Robert (Bob)
Swan**

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**Donald
Szibdat**

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Birthday: December 5



**Hans
Thiele**

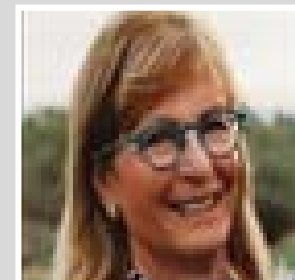
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**Frank
Tyrol**



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**Susan
Uhl**



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**Nick
Vallario**



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**Susan
Vanik**

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**Aaron
Vasquez**

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**Antonio (Tony)
Vining**

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**John
Voss**



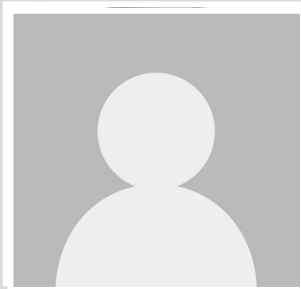
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Email: johnavoss@gmail.com
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**Colleen
(Scott's Mom)
Walski**

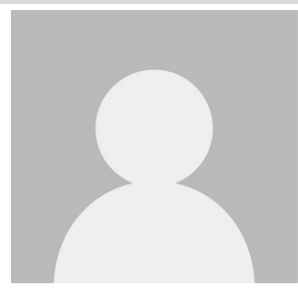


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**Renae
Watkins**



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**Staci
Wiese**

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**Kevin
Wilson**

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**John Mark (Mark)
Woods**

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**Steve
Woods**



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Birthday: July 5

**Robert
Zinser**



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**Leigh
Zydonik**



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Preferred Phone: 419-306-3009
Birthday: April 23

PAST PRESIDENTS

Fred Griffen 1973 Charter President
Ole Olsen 1974
Bob Ernst 1975
Fred Borwell 1976
Bill Meyers 77
Ted Clark 1978
Dick Schwartz 1979 Past Lt. Gov. & Past Gov.
Steve Gilliam 1980
Bruce Boyer 1981
Steve Campbell 1982
Russ Rourke 1983 Past Lt. Gov.
Fr. John Vogt 1984
John Curtiss 1985
Steve Searle 1986 22 years. perfect Attendance
Herb Glickston 1987
Fred Carpenter 1988
John Rogers 1989
Don Parks 1990 Past Lt. Gov.
Bob Anderson 1991
Carl Nusbaum 1992
Bill Mulliniks 1993
Rev. Bob Hutson 1994
Alan Haughner 1995
Lee Lange 1996
Dick Stewart 1997 Past Lt. Gov.
Julian Barrolaza 1998
Mike Sloan 1999
Shelby Wilson 2000
Wayne Fischer 2001
Herb Hayde 2003 Past Lt. Gov./Past Gov.
Ray Arnold 2004
Kathy Haughner 2005 Past Lt. Gov.
Andy Tobias 2006
Brian Kunkel 2007
Dave Bell 2008
Susan Vanik 2009
Manny Gonzales 2010
Jon Loffman 2011
Toby Payne 2012
Frank Tyrol 2013
Bob Swan 2014
Wes Hunsaker 2015
Geno Orrico 2016
Steve Dart 2017
Rick Heiken 2018
Mike Poppenwimer 2019
Kimberly Jack 2020

**Ted Clark (1978)**

Of the 700 kids in the local schools at that time, 600 were engaged in Club activities. These activities include Junior Achievement, learn to swim and chess. Started Key Club and Builders Club. 130 members

**Dick Schwartz (1979)**

Started greeter program. The Club became number one fund-raiser for Kiwanis International. 137 members



Steve Searle (1986) Last President named Steve and last under 40. Forced to move out of Carefree Inn, we met in a tent at Frontier Town. Problems with IRS regulation caused Club to cut back on fund-raising John Rogers until problem solved. Sponsored Little League team for 5 or 6 years, found plaques in garage and brought them for Club to keep.



John Rogers (1989) Infamous Spalding golf tournament during tenure. Raised \$100,000 for a net of about \$80,000, which equates to about 15¢ an hour. Started two new committees. Salvation Army Services Extension and Loan Closet, which was taken over from Ted and Eleanor Clark. Reduced contributions to International.



Don Parks (1990) When I joined, the Club met at Carefree Inn. There Dick Schwartz was no Foundation and no women. When ordered to admit women the Don Parks big issue was who would be the first member to sponsor a woman. Now the women are among our most valuable members. Started Club Directory with photos. Started Science Night and Career Day at schools.



Bill Mulliniks (1993) When I joined I thought, "what a nice group of white haired gentlemen". Now I am one of them. Expanded donations and scholarships. Club ran out of money and had to tighten belt to get back on track.



Rev. Bob Hutson (1994) During the very first week, the Club was informed by Culver's Place that our meetings could no longer be held there. Needless to say, there was a mad scramble to find a new location. Harold's was picked as an interim location and the Club has met there ever since! Started efforts to tidy up the membership roles and to create a financial direction for the club.



Alan Haugner (1995) Focused on restoring financial stability to Club and Foundation. Kathy Haugner joined Club and we were the first husband and wife members.



Lee Lange (1996) Club was in need of a new fund raiser so I inquired of other Clubs for ideas. First suggestion was balloon races, which seemed impractical in the Foothills. Fountain Hills said to try a pancake breakfast. So we did and it has become very successful. Sheriff Joe was invited and brought some of his pink shorts for auction and the Foundation cleared about \$2400.



Dick Stewart (1997) Moved into Harold's and had to solve problems of displaying award patches, sound from the other room and moving stage to clear space for tables. Big Dave Anderson took care of the moving and sound barrier needs and the banners were developed for the display. It was the 25th anniversary year, the Club Directory was revised and the Christmas Meeting attracted 240 attendees.



Julian Barrolaza (1998) There was a crisis with the IRS as the Club was not aware of the filing requirements. Dick Marr got the Club off the hook. Negotiated agreement with Town of Carefree to gain access to Flea Market warehouse. Funds appeal became important to fund a third scholarship.



Mike Sloan (1999) Set a goal for raising \$75,000 to sustain the Club's programs. Five flea markets, two pancake breakfasts and a Western Night provided much of the success in reaching that goal. Unfortunately, this was the only year that the Club experienced a small decrease in membership. This prevented us from being an Honor Club that year.



Shelby Wilson (2000) First Club President to bring a heavy metal group to a meeting (Metallica) for a moving tribute to Bob Schafer and his major contribution to their success. Also brought drug sniffing dog demonstration to a meeting. Broke records at Flea Market and Pancake Breakfast.



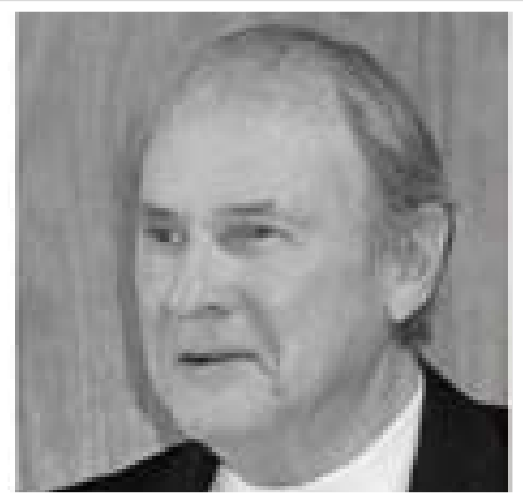
Wayne Fischer (2001) Formed a Strategic Spending Committee to focus Club contributions. Thanked entire Club for his successful tenure.



Hugh Stevens (2002) Revised Scholarship guidelines under management of Ed Morgan. No longer fixed on GPA, but also includes contribution to community service and a degree of need. Neal Cochran appointed PR chairman and he does a fine job even when he is in Illinois in the summer.



Herb Hayde (2003) Herb started his year with an off-site "Directors and Officers retreat" where he outlined the state of the club and his goals. He created the Future Focus Committee whose charge it was to identify key areas concerning present and future growth of the club. The grant committee streamlined and developed processes for evaluating and granting funds requests. Luncheons were more enjoyable with the introduction of theme table settings for holidays such as Thanksgiving, Oktoberfest, Valentine's Day, etc. The club modernized its Pancake Breakfast equipment with the purchase of stoves, coffee urns, and kitchen equipment that reduced expenses for this vital fund raiser. Through Fund Raisers as the Pancake Breakfasts, Flea Markets, and others our club reached a new high of \$100,000 which in turn, was granted to worthy organizations in keeping with our mission of serving the world, one child, one community at a time. The club grew by 27 and was awarded the "Chuck Nichols Award" for the largest membership growth of any club as well as the wards of 5-Star Award, the Governor's Award, and the Distinguished Club award.



Ray Arnold (2004) Inducted 58 new members, instituted three new committees, began four new Kiwanis service projects, committed to over \$42,000 in new scholarships, raised record Bell-Ringer Dollars for Salvation Army, donated \$6,500 to Tsunami Relief, donated over \$25,000 in ex-budget Hurricane Disaster Relief, donated ex-budget \$5,000 to a special facility need at Kamp Kiwanis, started and continue to sponsor two new K-Kids Clubs and one new Key Club, provided \$10,000 sponsorship funding for these youth programs, funded and staffed several reading programs including the library by more than \$16,000, partnered with other community organizations including Soroptimist, MCSO's Latch Key and Midnight Madness, Little League e.g. to the tune of almost \$30,000 ...plus the most important ingredient, and the sine qua non: the hearty participation of our many members.



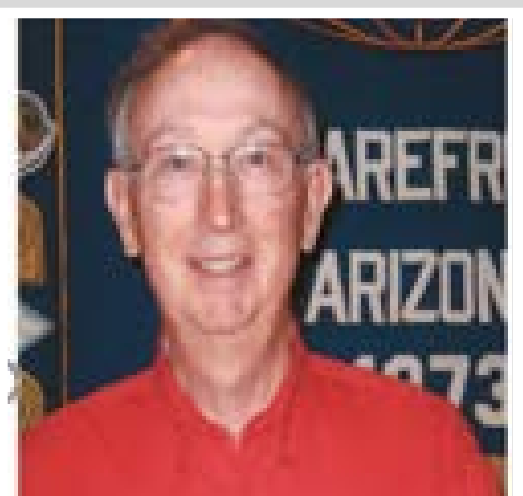
Kathy Haugner (2005) Focused our club on the Kiwanis mission: changing the world one child and one community at a time. With this focus we grew our member participation in service projects such as the Kiwanis Science Fair, grew our Kiwanis family to nine sponsored youth clubs, grew their attendance at leadership training programs at the SW District level, and grew participation for Key Leader training. In 2005 we added an additional academic and vocational scholarship. We ensured that all children in the CCUSD district have adequate dental, eye, and medical care as well as continued support for other local children's programs. Membership grew! Knowing the important work we do for the community spurred the club to focus on fundraising with the golf tournament, flea market, pancake breakfasts, Wings and Wheels, and Western Night hitting new records. Helga helped by interjecting two "Fun Raisers" which give an opportunity for Kiwanis fellowship. While most volunteer organizations operate on the old 20/80 rule, through a participation survey it was discovered that 80% of our members are directly involved in at least one project or aspect of the running of our club. Now, that's "hands on service" for our mission.



Andy Tobias (2006) Growth. In its second year, the science committee tripled the number of students involved to about 1,600, our largest service project. The scholarship committee created three new Merit Scholarships and gave much greater emphasis to financial need for our traditional college and vocational scholarships. The Flea Market generated a record \$87,299 for the year. Many thanks to the work of our tireless Fleas. We added a Key Club at Pinnacle Peak and a Key Leader program, bringing our youth service clubs to a total of eleven. And we had fun along the way! Whew! What a ride. Thanks to our whole club for all the work and making it fun!



Brian Kunkel (2007) Distinguished Club, and much more. First time our club created a new club. First time we achieved all three Interclub Circles. 3200 children involved with our Science Fair, which is double last year. The Flea Market earned a record \$90,186, including cars. Again, we committed to about \$50,000 in local scholarships. We created the "Wish List" to help fund requests from teachers and spent about \$15,000 in grants ranging from \$200 to \$400. Continued our many other youth oriented projects. That's community service!



Dave Bell (2008) The Club got off to a good start in 2008 with a record profit from the Golf Tournament and a record turn-out for the new member mixer at the Buffalo Chip. Then there was a very successful first-time ever Kiwanis Big Band Dance with the Desert Foothills Woman's Club as co-sponsors. Everyone had a good time and there are plan to continue the event. We also had a record crowd for Senator Kyle's visit with 170 people for lunch at Harold's. Our Club sponsored another Key Club at Shadow Mountain in the PV School District. The new Kiwanis Club at Desert Ridge will become responsible for the new club in the future. We have active Key Clubs, Builders Clubs, and Terrific Kids programs in several schools. All good things for kids. We sponsored the Kids Christmas part of the Carefree Light Festival in December. We now have a Santa Grotto and a new Christmas float to use in future parades. 258 regular members and 19 honorary members.



Susan Vanik (2009) Leadership is made easy by the remarkable dedication of over 250 members who work together to make our community a better place. During my term, two new programs were launched that serve our mission statement of Kids are #1. The Aktion Club for developmentally challenged young adults provides a social and project oriented club sanctioned by Kiwanis International that enriches the lives of some 25 young people. Autism outreach was developed by member Michael Moore who brought together SAARC, the Cave Creek Unified School District and numerous club members to help meet the needs of some 60+ autistic kids and their families. The Flea Market achieved record sales of nearly \$100,000 and continues to be the engine that drives our fund raising. The Club turned another milestone by purchasing a parcel of land in Carefree that one day will be the site of a Kiwanis Building. During this period of extreme economic hardship we were able to partner with the Food Bank both at Thanksgiving and Christmas to help those in need as well as make a donation to the Salvation Army. Our Science Fair continues to involve thousands of students in projects that challenge. In addition, we continue to build the leaders of tomorrow today, through our Builder and Key Clubs. Over 39 new members joined our roster this year. Our tradition of opening each meeting with patriotic music, prayer and pledging allegiance to our flag serves as inspiration to each one attending our weekly meetings who come for fellowship, as well as to learn from the diversity of our programs. All these accomplishments and we had fabulous events that brought us together: The Big Band Dance, The Christmas Luncheon at Desert Mountain, the 7th Charter Day Luncheon at the Carefree Resort and the Year End Celebration at the Carefree Station.



Manny Gonzales (2010) The year started off with the new purchase of a piece of property. This purchase lent us the opportunity for two things first as an investment then as a build to house the flea market. The current flea market location is on Town of Carefree property and according to our current agreement with the town our club will have to vacate soon. The Fleas and their work are vital to our club and the work we do in the community. This year Carefree Kiwanis took over a long standing program in the community “The Christmas Pageant”. Toby Payne has been Key in the program’s success over the years. Our New Key Club “Desert Foothills” ran the Luminara run for the first time in hopes to fund raise for a growing and thriving club that includes all High School students in our community. Great time we all had at Kiwanis Western night at the Carefree Inn Opera House being entertained for a first time at Carefree Inn World famous 3000 pound buffalo Harvey Wallbanger and TC Thorstenson his trainer. Before our on stage entertainment started we recognized Catt Lovins with a Diamond G Harold Martin award for Key Club excellence. On stage we enjoyed an evening with Dolan Ellis the Official Arizona State Balladeer. Capping off the night with the memory of George and Joan Hofer our western night chairs riding off stage on their stick horses. I served as Key Club International Convention host Kiwanian with Key Club host Catt Lovins a member we sponsor at the JW Marriott at Desert Ridge and many Kiwanis members came to help out with all the Key Club members from 30 countries for the weeklong conference. Thanking our board and all our servant members for year in service and Howard Dicke, Bruce Lukowiak and Bob Swan for giving us the tools for our financial future and Herb Hayde for his guidance.



Jon Loffmann (2011) The 2011/2012 year was a memorable one in many respects. We had a number of great events including a record setting attendance at our Christmas Luncheon that returned to the Desert Mountain venue, a great Western Nite that even attracted Wyatt Earp to the Opera House and a Founders Day that honored past presidents. Our Pancake Breakfast continues to be a community staple and the Science Fair just continues to get bigger and better each year. I don't have enough space to thank those Kiwanians involved in all of our the activities such as Student Leadership Programs, Scholarship programs, running golf tournaments, arranging great luncheon programs and many others. Several new initiatives of note included the “Job Boot Camp,” the formation of the Land Use Committee and decision to proceed with the launching of the Marketplace. The Job Boot Camp was a program designed by Autism Committee Chair Phyllis Strupp that provides practical skills for special needs students applying for work. The program was very well received by participants, parents and school administrators. The decision to move forward with the renting, renovating and launching of the Kiwanis Marketplace will not only substantially increase our ongoing fund raising efforts, but it will also provide valuable experience and community presence as we transition to our new site in future years. This activity is off to a great start under the leadership of Dave Bell and the newly formed organizational committee that coordinates the Flea Market/Marketplace operations.



Toby Payne (2012) This year proved to be a fruitful and achievement-oriented term. Our March Pancake Breakfast was attended by 550 of our local citizens. It was a great turnout and the pancakes were flipping rapidly as we gathered outside. April ushered in a new Builders Club at the Sonoran Trails Middle School, extending our reach into area schools. A highlight of our work with youth was when the band from Cactus Shadows High School attended our Scholarship Presentation of Awards, and serenaded the club with rousing music as they marched around the guest tables. Our Key Club Fall Rally Camp was attended by 120 students who came to Camp Sky Y in Prescott, AZ. Tara Jackson, from the Arizona Town Hall Organization, was our featured speaker and this proved to be a rewarding and powerful event. Arizona Town Hall assisted us again by serving as facilitators for our own Town Hall, held at the Holland Center. Both the Foundation and the Club Divisions of Kiwanis Carefree gathered to discuss the club’s direction. What a significant consensus builder this gathering proved to be for us all. Numerous onlookers were present as well, and all felt our goal of sharpening the focus of the club’s direction had been achieved. In July our Board proudly funded \$3500.00 for the Veteran’s Heritage Project. Connecting our youth and our veterans together to share the veteran’s experiences permitted all to review the tremendous effort of these service members, while learning our nation’s history in more depth than books alone could provide. Our Key Club students promoted worldwide health by donating \$2,000.00 to the Kiwanis International EliMiNaTe Project. The project, which joins together KI and UNICEF International, aims at eradicating maternal and infant tetanus, a significant cause of infant mortality around the globe. Attending the Southwest District Convention in Tucson, and the International Conventions in New Orleans, LA and Vancouver, WA, proved to be beneficial. Jenna Lee, our Key Club Southwest District Governor, was also in attendance. Perhaps one of the larger accomplishments during my term was furthering the goal of establishing our own Kiwanis Marketplace. The concept of the Marketplace was tested out by leasing the old fire station and opening it on December 1, 2012. During this time, we concurrently continued to operate our flea markets, sponsoring an annual total of 7, which allowed us to increase our incoming revenue. By April 5th, our Club Board was able to pledge \$500,000.00 to our Foundation, which will go toward the Building Fund. We’ve thus increased the momentum toward establishing our Kiwanis Marketplace in lieu of the current flea markets, and a significant amount of revenue is now pledged toward this goal. Upon completion of my term, we had 199 members and 25 Honorary members, at which time the gavel was passed to the incoming president, Bob Swan.



Frank Tyrol (2013) I served as President for the 2013-2014 term, and during this time Kiwanis Carefree ushered in a very big and impactful event. Following extensive consideration and debate, and with the hard work of our club members, the Kiwanis Marketplace building was purchased. This purchase enables Kiwanis to own and not rent that space, which is a popular shopping place on Cave Creek Road. Like any valuable asset, the ownership of this property dramatically increases our profits garnered at the Marketplace, and opens up a wide range of possibilities for our future gifting and funding. Using mostly volunteer staff, our payroll costs decrease as we continue to assist our buyers. What an accomplishment for Kiwanis Carefree, and I speak for all when I say we're all looking ahead with excitement to our opportunities to fund more scholarships and support many other local projects. Addressing the well being and safety of our children within the community is a Kiwanis priority. During my term, extensive focus was placed on youth and safety. While serving as president, with the support of other Kiwanians from Carefree, we were able to establish a firm set of guidelines and devise specific protocols for working interactively with our community youth. This was a major accomplishment and one I am also proud to have been a part of. Our Key Club projects and members were also effective during my time as president. The knowledge and inspiration we gained and shared during this time made working with our youth inspirational. Our daily work was highlighted by some wonderful speakers and luncheon programs, and they were well attended. In keeping with Kiwanis tradition, I also attended the Vancouver International meeting, mixing with old friends while meeting many new ones. Our international ties and projects are invaluable as our world expands in complexity and population. In looking back, I remember the controversy which preceded the purchase of the Kiwanis Marketplace. Many opinions were shared, reviewed, assessed and evaluated, prior to the final and official purchase. The diversity of thought and the ideas exchanged resulted in a sometimes difficult and sometimes amusing discussion. I believe the end result was worth it. Many of our volunteers worked tirelessly and endlessly to further our goals, but special thanks belongs to Toby Payne, Manny Gonzales and Dave Bell. This was a year in which we enabled Kiwanis Carefree's range of gifting to be broader than ever. We have great hope for the future.



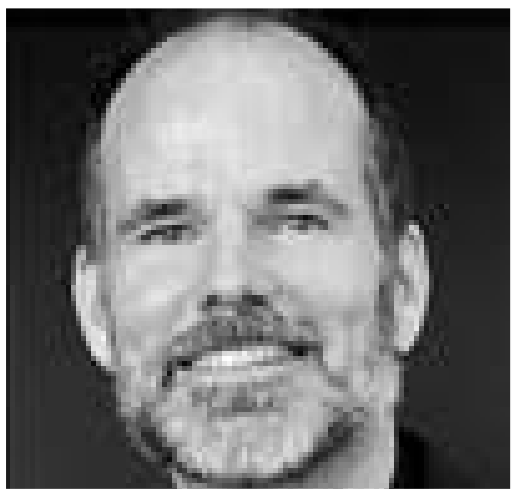
Bob Swan (2014) The major challenge and opportunity was to staff the newly-opened Marketplace in Cave Creek with volunteers and eventually some paid employees. A very capable club member committee undertook this important task. Thanks to member Karen Mackiewicz for becoming our Club Executive Director and later the Marketplace General Manager! (All this while she co-sponsored our Key Club.) Major thanks go to the dozens of Kiwanians who joined with a cadre of outside volunteers to make this important fund-raising function viable. Due to member generosity, payments on the loan we took out to buy the Marketplace premises began to be retired early. The best news: the parking lot was full of customers from day one. Manny Gonzales quarterbacked a very successful Fall Rally in Prescott for 96 Key Club members from throughout the state of Arizona. We sponsored Kiwanis Concerts in the Carefree Pavilion under Toby Payne's mentorship. We surveyed Kiwanis club members seeking input on meeting and volunteering issues. We established a Board Code of Conduct. Bob Swan, his wife Kathy and Karen Mackiewicz were honored to attend Kiwanis International's 100th Birthday Party (Convention) in Indianapolis as the Club's delegates. Your Board implemented a new process to evaluate grant applications using a Funds Request Committee. The Board approved a good faith effort to raise \$135,000 for Kiwanis International's Project Eliminate (to defeat Maternal Neonatal Tetanus world-wide). With great encouragement by Geno Orrico, we are underwriting Carefree's newly-installed splash pad, and got terrific branding of the pad, which attracts kids from the foothills community and beyond for good clean fun. Kudos to John Skarda for naming the blue metal scorpion in the pad "Kiwani." We also obtained more prominent exclusive Kiwanis branding of the Little League baseball field on CCUSD grounds. Many other grants were awarded, in several cases to new recipients. It was a very busy year with many changes to absorb! Carefree Kiwanis' impact was making bigger positive differences.



West Hunsaker (2015) Bringing the Marketplace into a well-functioning business contained complexities and issues to confront and solve. One of our larger issues in the beginning was addressing the issue of having and managing employees. This was a learning time for us all, not always smooth and some issues were not easily solved. As both an attorney and the President, I was also acutely aware of the risk side of having employees. We addressed these concepts, and learned as we went along, and although it was not always seamless, we established a successful working structure at the Marketplace. Additionally, we also had to deal with concerns regarding the surrounding environment. There were questions regarding the adjacent area development and potential flooding around our building. That was another of the numerous concerns we had to iron out, and there were always various perspectives to take into consideration. In the end, we managed to work through several issues, resulting in significant growth in revenue for Kiwanis Carefree as we moved forward. The increase in capital solidified the financial stability of the Foundation, and we were successful in paying off the debt we took on to purchase the building, years ahead of schedule. This not only removed the liability, but also saved us tens of thousands of dollars in interest. Our financial stability resulted in a substantial increase in our contributions within the community and dramatically increased the number and size of the scholarships we gave out. While representing our Club and the Foundation at the Kiwanis International Conference in Toronto, I can say that almost 100% of our fellow Kiwanians wished they had the Carefree issues to deal with! That afforded me another perspective altogether, and meeting our fellow Kiwanians was a great experience, as well as was attending the District Conference in Tucson. As I reflect upon my efforts to juggle my full-time job with my duties as President, it honestly was more than I bargained for at the start, but with a positive end result. I am grateful for the experiences I had as the club President, and appreciate the deep friendships that ensued. But seriously, I confess, sometimes I miss that little flea market of old! Remembering both past and present, I remain a proud Kiwanian, and deeply appreciate all the work we do as a club, and the positive contributions we make to our community each and every day.



Geno Orrico (2016) I was president of Kiwanis Carefree from 2016-2017. Following the purchase of the Kiwanis Marketplace in 2013-2014, by the time I took the position as president, it was up and running and serving as a continuing source of income. I was able to focus on and direct the sale of another piece of property that Kiwanis had, which had been up for sale for a couple of years. We were all pleased to see it sell, and by doing so we removed a financial liability and also increased our incoming revenue. This enabled us to further develop our projects within the community. I attended all the Southwestern District conventions during my term, and assisted Canon Dart in representing Kiwanis Carefree at the program in France. It was a busy term. Being closely involved with the Scholarship Committee and the Key Club at Cactus Shadows, I had firsthand experience in observing the kids and teens broaden their leadership qualities. It was inspiring to watch them learn and develop their leadership skills, which will enable them to be strong and effective leaders of tomorrow. I also enjoyed connecting with the parents of the recipients of the scholarships, and it was uplifting to hear them express their appreciation for how much impact our awards would have on their children's lives. I was always reminding them "That's what we do. We're here to help the kids." As president of an active club, heavily involved in service, I was often able to interact with the most interesting people. So many have left such a positive impression with me, both our own Kiwanis members and our young recipients and club members in the schools. This connection between the people is what has left the most lasting impression with me. To watch everyone interact and bond together, that was inspiring. During my year of service as president, we accomplished many positive things, but what always stays with me the most is seeing people helping people, striving to make others lives better and working toward a common goal. Seeing us all assist one another-that adds a lot of fulfillment to my life. "We're here to help the kids"-I like seeing that happen. We all pitched in to help one another, and that stays with me as I look back.



Canon Steven Dart (2017) God blessed the Kiwanis Club of Carefree in this year bringing in 23 new members and a newly minted Hospitality Committee working for a 40% increase in attendance at our luncheon meetings. The committee also brought us our private label Kiwanis of Carefree red wine. We enjoyed the participation of student interns who revived the Sundial Newsletter, launched our social media campaigns, and initiated a robust communications plan. Our Key Club flourished again at the Cactus Shadows High School. We brought our Bylaws into alignment with Kiwanis International standards. Our charitable foundation board unleashed its committees to respond to the tremendous growth of the Kiwanis Marketplace and the consequent benevolent giving. We rocketed over \$1,000,000 in revenue at the Marketplace. This, combined with other funds, allowed our Foundation to give a record 1/4 million dollars in the community with major grants to the local schools for educational infrastructure and materials.



Rick Heiken (2018) This period was marked by some very serious hard work from many dedicated Kiwanians. In keeping with the demands of the times and our world today, we backed our "Brilliant Futures Initiative" with providing CCUSD and Foothills Academy with ChromeBooks, and also funding the schools with STEM Labs. Providing students with materials to further their technological expertise and increasing their usage was a very important goal for us. By supporting STEM labs in the schools, we believe we increased their "hands on " learning while building core skills in math, science, engineering and technology. We're pleased with our ongoing commitment to this solid foundation for their future. With our emphasis on education, we saw the restructuring of Key Club from a "community sponsored club" to a school sponsored club. As a result, the membership in Key Club has increased and become one of the stronger organizations in the high school. During my term, we extended our support of scholastic achievement by funding numerous Scholarship Awards, which grew significantly in my term. I believe our strong emphasis on technology and education was a great way to support our students as they meet an increasingly technological future.



Mike Poppenwimer (2019) served as President of Kiwanis Carefree from March 2019 to October 2020. My term, spanning 18 months, consisted of a very busy and productive period followed by a very quiet period, due to the onset of the CoVid-19 virus. We were accomplishing many objectives before the onset of the pandemic; the development and promotion of a new Mission Statement, the purchase of new land adjacent to the Marketplace for needed additional parking, the re-establishment of a major fundraiser, Western Night, and the development of a new wine label and the presentation of our special wine for awards. We also produced new printed materials for distribution within the community and to prospective members, and enhanced our web-site. The onset of the pandemic brought many changes, however. For the first time since our club's inception, we had to cancel our weekly luncheons, due to the Governor's directives. We also had to close the Marketplace for a period of time. This closure had a significant impact on our club, as it is our primary source of funding for many of our projects. However, despite the continuing epidemic and the ensuring nationwide closures, our club and its members were still committed to our mission. Although our weekly luncheons had to be postponed, our work continued. Our Student Leadership Program broke records with the number of new groups that were started, and additional records were set with the scholarships we handed out. Even with our six week closure, in the end the Marketplace finished the year with record sales and profit. In my role as President, I attended the monthly District meetings in Scottsdale, went to our Annual District convention in Phoenix, and attended the National Kiwanis Convention in Orlando, FL. All resulted in significant memories, but recalling Ted Dimon's luncheon jokes and the festivities during Halloween and Christmas still provides a good laugh. Identifying individual contributors that stood out is difficult, as I believe everyone contributed to the success of my Presidential term. As Helen Keller said, " Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". This definitely sums up the Kiwanis Club of Carefree's attitude and work ethic. I was blessed to have the support of members in all the endeavors and programs during my time as President. Together, we made a difference.



COVID

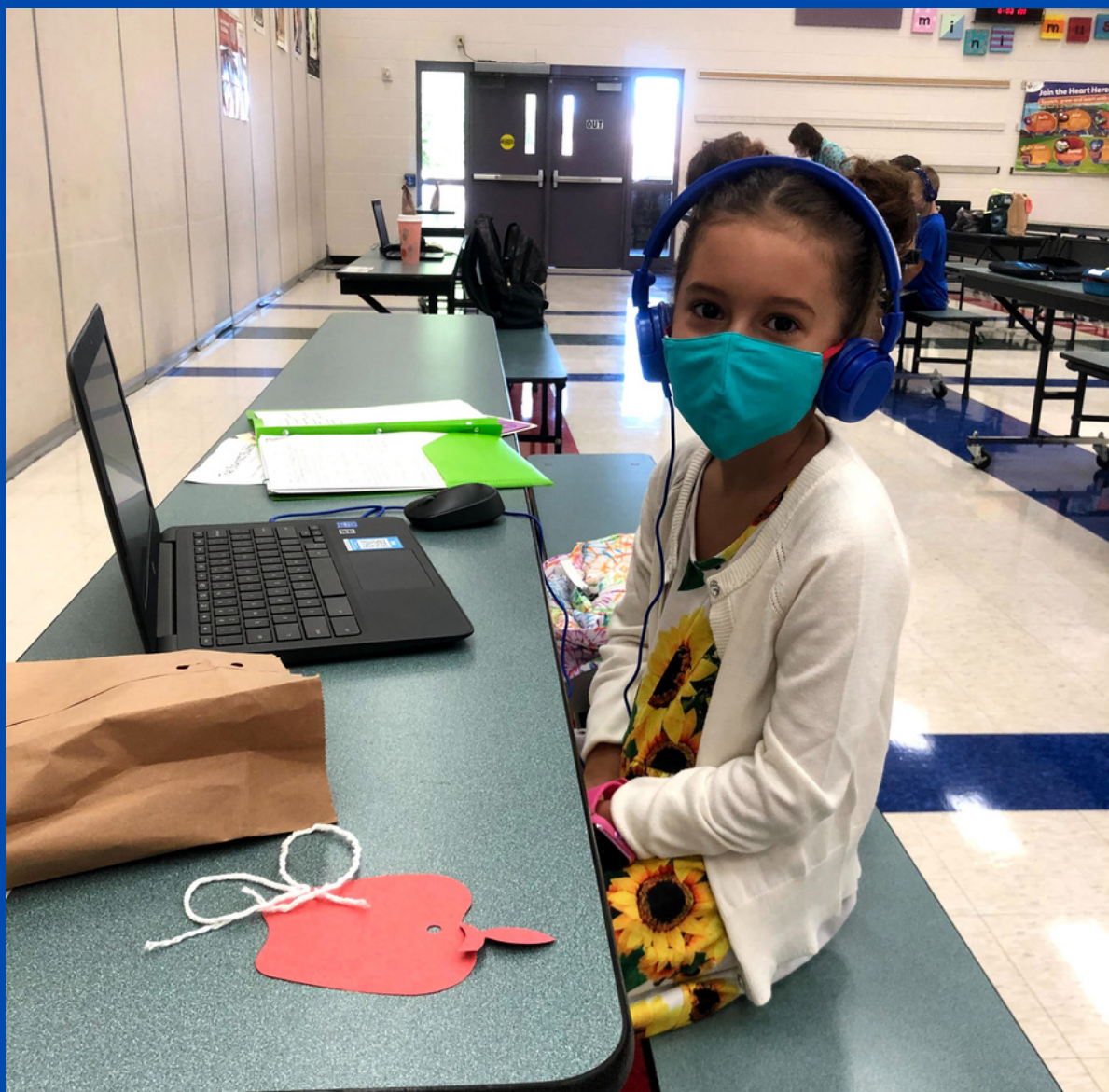
DURING COVID, WE HAD VIRTUAL MEETINGS, PHONE MEETINGS, AND EVENTUALLY OUTDOOR MEETINGS. IT MAY HAVE CHANGED OUR PRACTICES, BUT IT DIDN'T SLOW US DOWN TOO MUCH.



CHRISTMAS SHARING BRINGS SMILES! THIS CHRISTMAS WE DELIVERED SEVERAL LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREES AND PRESENTS TO OUR MEMBERS LIVING ALONE OR EXPERIENCING TROUBLE GETTING OUT. GENO WAS IN HIS FUN ELF COSTUME AND DELIGHTED EVERYONE. THE RECIPIENTS WERE SO GRATEFUL, MANY OF THEM HAD TEARS IN THEIR EYES UPON RECEIVING OUR LITTLE TREES AND STOCKINGS, KNOWING WE WERE THINKING OF THEM OVER CHRISTMAS.



Kiwanis of Carefree supports our local schools.
These donations purchased hundreds of Chromebooks that students were able to use when they were learning from home March, 2020 through September 8, 2020.



Acknowledgements

Special thanks to this year's co-chairs Ted Dimon and John Skarda
and team members Patty Jensen and Staci Wiese.



